

Study of the Impact of BrainWare SAFARI on Cognitive Skills and Student Achievement

Purpose of the Study

BrainWare SAFARI cognitive skills development software has been evaluated in over 20 studies, including both peer-reviewed, published research and field studies, with a variety of populations and assessments. Significant gains have been shown on both cognitive and academic measures. The prior research suggests the potential for the program to have a positive impact on a much broader scale in education. The purpose of this study is to conduct independent research that would serve to inform policy decisions regarding the adoption of BrainWare SAFARI across a broad spectrum of elementary schools and student populations.

Researchers

Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at Indiana University (CEEP)

Dr. Patricia Muller, Director of Evaluation and Research and CEEP Associate Director

Dr. John Hitchcock, CEEP Director and Associate Professor of Instructional Technology Systems

Study Confirmatory Questions

- Does participation in BrainWare SAFARI yield greater *growth in cognitive skills*, compared to a control group?
- Does participation in BrainWare SAFARI yield greater *student academic achievement*, compared to a control group?

Planned Study Exploratory Questions

The following are examples, not an exhaustive list of potential exploratory questions:

- Whether gains in cognitive skills are sustained a year later
- Impact of student subgroups (e.g., Special Education status, Gifted status, ELL status, Free and Reduced Lunch status, in addition to the general population of students)
- Implementation fidelity

Study Design

Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Design

Designed to meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards

Sample

64 schools, randomly assigned to the treatment and control conditions

Public (both traditional public schools and charter schools) and Private Schools (must administer the ISTEP)

Students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades in participating schools

Urban, suburban and rural elementary schools

Measures

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Form 7

Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+)

Research Timetable

2014-2015 School Year	2015-2016 School Year	2016-2017 School Year
Refine research plan Garner school interest/commitment	Students in treatment schools use BrainWare SAFARI in Fall Control schools follow normal routine	Control schools use BrainWare SAFARI Treatment schools do year-later testing

The conduct and reporting of the study will be entirely independent from The BrainWare Company and any funding sources. One or more reports will be written at the completion of the study, with attempt made to publish, regardless of the findings. There is no fiduciary relationship between The BrainWare Company and CEEP. This does not constitute an endorsement by CEEP of any aspect of the product to be tested. Funding is not contingent on CEEP doing the proposed work.

For more information:

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